

WAP memo

4 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Visit to the Office of National Estimates

1. On 22 November I met with Bill Bundy to discuss the current status of ONE. We spent considerable time discussing my memorandum concerning GMIC and the post-mortem problem. I explained the nature of the evidence in some detail that had caused me to make my judgment on the matter. Bill did not seem to be fully familiar with this evidence. He went on to explain, however, that ONE conceived of the post-mortem process as a means of formulating agreed requirements to levy on collectors rather than as a device for identifying substantive issues.

2. Bill had the following comments to make on the specific points I had raised in my 7 November memorandum:

a. He did not feel that the need for presenting an agreed view was ~~un~~inhibiting ~~in~~ our ability to present what we felt to be was a current view to our consumers. He said there was doubtless some small influence of this kind but that it was not great and did not have much effect on the important issues.

b. He felt that interagency relations were good on the whole. The Air Force problem is notorious, of course, and rotation in personnel in other agencies sometimes causes difficulties. Relations with the State Department, however, appear to have improved as a result of recent rotation there.

c. Support from the EIC, and ORR in particular, has been excellent. Support from the SEC has been less useful, although the personal participation of [] and other key OSI personnel in the preparation of estimates has been of great value. DDP participation in the preparation of estimates, although not great, is helpful and well done.

d. Aside from the obvious substantive problems like Soviet bomber production, Bill feels that the problem of China is the greatest problem at the present time. This is largely the result of an Agency-wide lack in real China experts. He said that ONE had made strenuous efforts with the help of the Office of Personnel to find such people, but that in general China experts are unclearable, overly committed to prior judgments of the China situation, or not interested in working for CIA. He hopes to be able to borrow a man from the DDP, who appears to be promising, to help solve ONE's problem

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in the short run, but he feels that additional action is required to put the Agency in better condition in this field.

e. Although relations between ONE and OCI vary to some extent as a result of the influence of substantive problems and personalities, he feels that on the whole relations are adequate.

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